

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057087
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 /039 R

66011

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

-----150733Z 033398 /15

R 150335Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 8207

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057087

FOL REPEAT COTONOU 485 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 9 MAR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PINT, PDIP, DM, US

SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC CORPS MEETING ON BENINESE PROPOSED INTERNAL

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SECURITY RESTRICTIONS

REF: A. STATE 049148 B. COTONOU 0439

1. MAJORITY OF RESIDENT CHIEFS OF MISSION PLUS EEC AND UN
REPRESENTATIVES MET AT INVITATION OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR (DEAN)
TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN'S (GPRB)

ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO RESTRICT MOVEMENT OF DIPLOMATS. DURING CORDIAL, BUT OFTEN BLUNT EXCHANGE OF IDEAS GROUP DIVIDED ITSELF INTO (A) THOSE WHO FELT WE WERE FACED WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI AND HAD TO SEEK SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS FROM REGULATIONS (FRANCE, ZAIRE); (B) THOSE WHO THOUGHT WE OUGHT TO TAKE FIRM STAND ON PRINCIPLES OF VIENNA CONVENTION AND MAKE BENINESE CLARIFY THEIR POSITION ON APPLICABILITY OF CONVENTION (US, GERMANY, NIGER, WITH RESERVATIONS EGYPT AND CANADA); (C) THOSE WHO WERE NOT COVERED BY CONVENTION (EEC/FED AND UN); (D) THOSE WHO THOUGHT, OR AT LEAST SAID, NOTHING AT ALL (GHANA, USSR). CHINA, NIGERIA, AND NORTH KOREA WERE NOT REPRESENTED. AFTER LONG DISCUSSION, ONLY SPECIFIC SUBJECT ON WHICH UNANIMITY EMERGED WAS REQUEST FOR RESTORATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE STILL BEING WITHHELD BY GPRB.

2. DISCUSSION SHIFTED TO BEST MEANS OF BRINGING OUR COLLECTIVE CONCERN TO ATTENTION GPRB. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVED PROPER METHOD WOULD BE TO GO THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR KUMUAMBA RESPONDED THAT ONLY PRESIDENT KEREKOU PERSONALLY WOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH SITUATION, SINCE HE IN FACT IS THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT TO GO TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD BE TO INVITE SILENCE OR EVASION. ZAIRIAN THEN PROPOSED SEEKING COLLECTIVE AUDIENCE WITH KEREKOU, TO BE ARRANGED BY DEAN SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CHEF DE CABINET OF PRESIDENT. SUGGESTION MET WITH GENERAL APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE AND DEAN AGREED TO PURSUE IT.

3. COMMENT: SINCE DECREES HAVE YET TO BE PUBLISHED BELIEVE WE SHOULD JOIN IN EFFORT TO HAVE GROUP MEETING WITH KEREKOU, AS THERE IS CHANCE THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED EXTENT TO WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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THOSE DECREES WOULD VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL NORMS. ZAIRIAN THOUGHT KEREKOU MIGHT BE ALERTED TO FACT THAT BENINESE REPRESENTATIVES IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES NOT TREATED IN MANNER BENIN TREATS FOREIGN DIPLOMATS. (THIS WAS CLOSEST ANYONE CAME TO OFFERING TO APPLY RECIPROCITY, ALTHOUGH FRENCH AMB NOTED THAT PARIS HAD REFUSED TO CUT OFF BENINESE AMBASSADOR'S TELEPHONE).

4. BELIEVE BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO SEE WHETHER COLLECTIVE AUDIENCE WITH KEREKOU IS FEASIBLE, AND IF IT METARIALIZES SHORTLY, RESERVE ACTION UNTIL WE CAN GAUGE PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE. IF DECREES PROMULGATED AND IMPLEMENTED BEFORE MEETING, WE CAN ALWAYS PROCEED WITH STEPS OUTLINED REFTELS.
THOMPSON

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MEETINGS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE057087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770088-0175
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770358/aaaabyrk.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5919f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 49148
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3102232
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIPLOMATIC CORPS MEETING ON BENINESE PROPOSED INTERNAL CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PINT, PDIP, DM, US
To: PARIS KINSHASA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5919f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009